[27th March 1929

A.—(*a*) The Government refused their consent in 1923 to the order of the convicting court selecting two prisoners for "special division".

(*b*) The Government cannot furnish the information as it is confidential.

Magistrates

Abolition of Sarishtadar-Magistrates.

*2019 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the question of abolishing the class of Sarishtadar-Magistrates and if so, with what results?

A.– The Government came to the conclusion that generally the disadvantages of Sarishtadar-Magistrates did not outweigh the financial cost of replacing them by Stationary Sub-Magistrates and Taluk Sarishtadars; while particular cases could always be dealt with on their merits.

State Prisoners

Admission of convicts in the special division.

*2020 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons were convicted for any political offences since the special division was formed; and

(*b*) how many of such prisoners were placed in such special division?

A.—(*a*) There is no separate classification of convicts under the heading "Political" prisoners. The number of persons convicted for offences against the State from 1923 to 1927 (both years inclusive) is 100. The figures for 1928 and 1929 are not available yet.

(*b*) Seven.

Arms and Explosives

Number and location of non-military shooting clubs.

*2021 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any non-military rifle shooting clubs or associations for target practice or any places where non-military populations are allowed to practise shooting;

(*b*) if so, where they are situated; and

(*c*) whether any, and if so, what restrictions are placed on such clubs?

A.—(*a*) So far as Government are aware there are four non-military rifle shooting clubs for target practice in this Presidency which have their own ranges. There are no other places reserved for non-military populations to practise shooting.

(*b*) At Kodaikanal, Ketti, Wellington and Yercaud.

(*c*) The restrictions are specified in the licence in Form XV of the Indian Arms Rules, 1924.